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they can do this only by persuasion. The individual who refuses the service of the probation officer, and insists immediately upon court action, is, of course, given his constitutional right. It is interesting that among nearly 8,000 cases in which court action was taken in 1916 only 91 cases were opened outside of probation department. Furthermore, any agreement or reconciliation must be formally allowed by the court before the case is considered adjusted. Sometimes the facts are presented in summary form without the original parties being present. In other cases, the individuals concerned may appear before the judge who explains the situation.

Much of the time and effort of the probation officers is devoted to the securing of relief for unfavorable economic and physical conditions which are found to underlie most of the personal and family problems brought into court. The important feature of this work is not that service is rendered in addition to the regular court work, but that securing medical care, changed housing conditions, mental examinations, and so forth, may be the means by which the necessity for court action is obviated. This larger social service thus forms an integral part of probation. The recognition of this fact has resulted in the development of more and more complete provision within the court itself for such services as medical examinations and treatment, psychological tests, and the securing of positions. The distinct effort has also been made to have the various workers familiar with the resources of the city for all forms of social service. The Reference Book of Social Agencies, prepared by Miss Ella Harris, is in constant use in every section of the probation department.

Another feature of the wider socialization of the court has been the discovery that it is necessary to teach other city departments and private organizations, as well as the general public the objects and uses of the court. This has been accomplished in large measure by public addresses given by judges and other court officers. A course of lectures on the probation work was given during 1916 by the Pennsylvania Training School for Social Service. There have also been many articles published by court workers. One of the best ways of securing intelligent co-operation with other parts of the community has been through the holding of frequent conferences with other agencies on various aspects of the court work.

To summarize, probation in the Municipal Court means:

1. The investigations of every case to ascertain as far as possible the facts of both sides in order to determine whether or not court action is necessary.
2. The adjustment without court action on the basis of this investigation in as many cases as possible.
3. The preparation of the cases for presentation for the judge.
4. The carrying out of the judge's orders, and the continuous supervision of the case for the first hearing.
5. Very seldom does it mean punishment in itself, or the diminution of a more severe sentence.—Jane Deeter Rippin, Chief Probation Officer, Municipal Court, Philadelphia.

A Municipal Detention House.—A disused school house, located at Twelfth and Wood streets, Philadelphia, has been fitted up as a detention house for women and girls.

Upon the ground floor is a small court room and administrative offices. Each field worker has her own desk, and there is ample provision for privacy in her conferences with the girls and women. On the second story is a dormitory and several private rooms for the care of women brought in from the

street, and offices for the physician, for a psychopathic clinic, for the Bertillon records, and a suite for the superintendent's private use.

On the upper story are accommodations for young girls, and for special cases held as witnesses. Each girl of this group is intended to have a bedroom to herself, and there is a common room with a victrola, a piano, and tables for writing and games. Girls in this group are kept wholly separate from those on the story below. The furnishings of all the rooms are simple and dainty, and a home atmosphere prevails.

A woman physician is always on duty. She is assisted by two nurses. A psychologist takes charge of all mental examinations, but is not continually on duty. All who are detained are given a thorough physical examination. The physician and psychologist work together, and treatment, whether mental or physical for those who are put on probation, is continued as long as needed. Particularly cases which need salvarsan come voluntarily for treatment when they have left the institution.

The case of everyone brought into this House of Detention is promptly investigated, and as far as possible settled out of court. The trial is strictly private, only witnesses being allowed to be present. This is a tremendous advantage over the old crowded police courts where all classes of accused persons hear each others trials.

While the groups of women handled by this court cover the majority of the women offenders in Philadelphia, there remain a number of women who differ very little from these, but whose cases are still handled by the magistrates, and still others charged with such offenses as larceny, assault and battery, and murder, who are still sent to jails and police stations to await trial.

There seems no reason why the Municipal Detention Houses described above might not act as clearing houses for all women charged with any sort of crime.—Jane Deeter Rippin, Chief Probation Officer, Philadelphia, Pa.

The State's Duty to Delinquent Women and Girls.¹—It is my understanding that what is desired by the Association is a statement regarding the established reformatories for female juvenile delinquents—for girls between the ages, say, of seven and eighteen years, which is, I believe, the range covered by these institutions. I like better calling them formatories, rather than *re*-reformatories, for the girls who are sent to them have not all of their habits definitely formed; they are still in the formative period of life, making it our work and likewise giving us the opportunity to assist in the formation as well as the reformation of their characters.

This underlying idea has become prevalent, for even in the naming of the institutions it has made itself evident. I do not recall any juvenile institution which carries the word reformatory in its name. The word "school" appears in its place.

At least fifteen states have institutions of the type to be described, although not all are state institutions, supported wholly by state funds.

Practically all of these schools have the cottage system, which means that they have a group of buildings, each with a capacity of from twenty to thirty-five, in which the girls live, with as close an approach as possible to an orderly, properly conducted family life. There is in each a kitchen, dining room, recreation or general sitting room, perhaps also a laundry and a play room, and a

¹Read before the Congress of the American Prison Association, New Orleans, November, 1917.